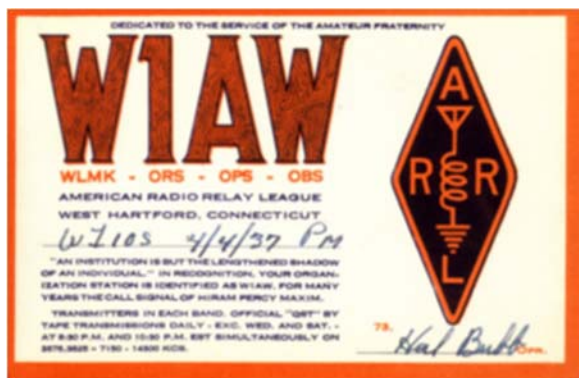




THE ART OF EXCHANGING QSLs

GARY SKUSE, KA1NJL—RARA VICE PRESIDENT

I love to operate HF because the notion of communicating with someone a long way from my station who lives in a different culture (even if that means North Dakota or West Virginia) is, in my view, one of the most thrilling aspects of the hobby. However, the experience is not complete until the contact is verified and the way we do that is by exchanging QSLs. At the February RARA meeting Bill Kasperkoski, WB2SXY, RARA QSL manager and QSLer extraordinaire, will show us how it is done.



The process of exchanging QSL "cards" has evolved over the years in a way that is similar to the advances we've seen in electronics. Back in the day we would exchange paper post cards via the US mail. In fact I have a stack of them in a drawer in my station. When doing so with stations outside of the US we either used the QSL Bureau at the ARRL or we would purchase International Reply Coupons (IRCs, WTH?) from the post office in order to

encourage the station at the other end of the contact to respond by removing the financial burden of postage from the process. Often IRCS were replaced by "green stamps" (i.e. US currency, dollar bills, moola) in order to really encourage the station to respond. Sometimes that worked and sometimes it did not.

Whatever process we employed, the time lag between the actual contact and its verification could vary from weeks to years. I have to say, from my experience, receiving a QSL card 3 years after a contact sort of dulls the thrill of the contact more than a little bit. Of course, contact verification is important for more than simply making the operators feel good. It is necessary to verify contacts in order to qualify for any number of awards including Worked All States, DXCC and DX-LH. The last award is given to those who work lighthouse stations in 100 countries, honest.

Nowadays QSLs, like many things, are exchanged electronically via the Logbook of the World, a very slick and very reliable service provided by the ARRL. But, despite the slickness and reliability, getting started with the LOTW is not as simple as one might hope.

At the February RARA meeting we will hear from someone who knows the QSL process better than anyone I know. Bill will tell us about his many experiences and provide tips for making it all work. Please join us for what is certainly going to be an enlightening presentation. The meeting will be held on Friday February 6th at 7pm in the usual location, the Henrietta Fire Company #1, located at 3129 East Henrietta Road near Lehigh Station Road.

FEBRUARY 2015
VOLUME 67, ISSUE 6

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PREZ SEZ

FRANK SCHRAMM, WB2PYD—RARA PRESIDENT

Lions, Tigers, and Bears... oh my!

It's more like: Bobcats, Tigers, Wolves, and Bears... Of course I'm referring to Scouts, not actual wild animals. Some of you are aware that there is also a scouting program called "Exploring". Explorer scouts are sponsored by a group and learn about possible career development. One of the most popular Explorer topics is firefighting and I'm sure your local fire department has an Explorer Post. A lesser known scouting program is called "Venturing". Explorers learn about careers, Venturers learn about hobbies. See where I'm going with this?

RARA is in the early stages of forming / sponsoring a Venture Crew with the Seneca Waterways Council of the Boy Scouts of America. Needless to say, our Board of Directors is very excited about all the possibilities this youth program can provide to the Crew members as well as the future of the club. Some of you may recall a similar effort a few years ago that failed to develop sufficient interest. The current scouting officials assure us that that was due to a lack of participation by their predecessors.

Some of the activities our Venture Crew members can look forward to will be on the air operations, getting licensed, or upgrading their license, public service event communications, public relations exposure, construction projects, and various radio sport activities; as well as being ambassadors of the hobby to their peer groups.

Venturing is for boys and girls who are 14 through 20 years of age. So this can be an exciting way to expose Amateur Radio to your kids, grand kids, or young friends and neighbors! You'll soon be seeing a lot more about the RARA Venture Crew here in the RAG.



73, and prosperous DXing!

Frank
WB2PYD

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

FEBRUARY 6TH - RARA General Meeting
7:00 PM at Henrietta Fire Co. #1, 3129 East Henrietta Rd

FEBRUARY 12TH - RARA Board of Directors
5:30 PM RIT Engineering Hall, Room 2110

February 21ST - RARA VE Testing
10:00 AM RIT Gleason Hall, Room 9-3139

February 21ST - RARA Winterfest
Stewart Lodge in Mendon Ponds Park

RARA Winterfest 2015

Gary Skuse, KA1NJL

Our fifth annual RARA Winterfest is right around the corner and it's time to get excited. We are bringing back our very popular crockpot cook off and everyone is invited to bring their favorite crockpot creation to share. You are encouraged to bring anything you can make in a crockpot. We anticipate seeing, and eating, all sorts of soups, chili, casseroles, lasagna, pizza, stew and who knows what else. As before, we will be awarding prizes of RARA membership points to the top three entrants. The first place winner will receive 50 points, second place will get 30 points and the third place winner will receive 10 points. These points can be redeemed when you renew your RARA membership, make reservations for the annual RARA banquet or for anything else club-related.



We are also inviting everyone to bring a dessert to share. In fact we are so excited about dessert that we will be judging dessert creations and awarding 25 RARA membership points for the best dessert. Desserts do not need to be made in a crockpot but if you can do that, go for it. We encourage you to put on your chefs' hats and those funny striped pants and wow us with your sweet culinary creativity. Of course there is no entry fee for these cook-offs so simply sharing the wonderful delicacies will make everyone a winner.

The 'fest will be held on Saturday February 21st in Stewart Lodge in Mendon Ponds Park, the same location we used for our summer picnic. If you missed the picnic or have never been to the park you can find a map [here](#).

As always we encourage you to bring radios and antennas so we can operate and have fun. During the past several Winterfests we have had visitors who were interested in becoming hams. Active operating positions are a great way to introduce them to the hobby and encourage them to become hams themselves. Of course, if you know anyone who would like to learn more about our wonderful hobby please invite them to join us.

We will be there around 10am to set up radios and antennas and anyone willing to help will be welcome to join us. We encourage everyone else to plan to get there around 11:30am when the eating and operating will begin.



RARA will provide non-alcoholic beverages along with all the necessary paper products that will be needed to enjoy the great food we will certainly have. I'll look forward to seeing everyone there.

Peak The Grid

Forest Shick, WA2MZG

Nostalgia – A Mostly True Story

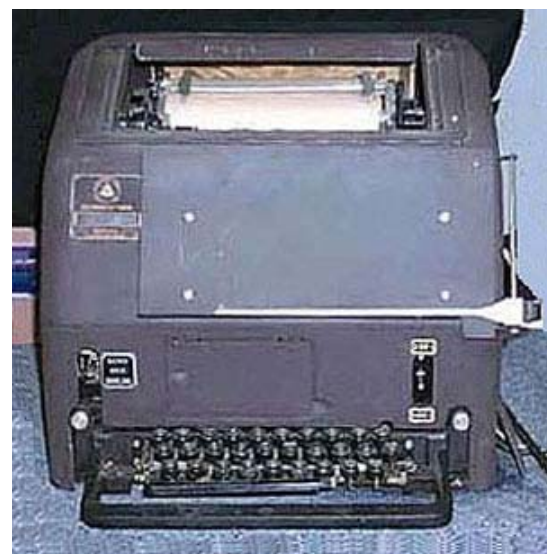
It's August 1969. You pack your trunk with clothes, bedding, school supplies, oscilloscope and voltmeter. You place your trunk and 12 string guitar in the back of the family car. You, Mom and Dad head off to Fort Wayne, Indiana. After 15 hours of driving you arrive on campus and the first words from your mother are "Turn the car around. We are going home!" After some properly phrased coercion from your dad, you are handed over to the care and supervision of the Dean of Student's secretary, who by the way, already knows your name. HMMMM ! How does that happen – there are no digital cameras, Facebook, Instagram, etc.? There is a Schick Hall and Schick Street on campus – but no relationship – not even spelled the same.

OK – you are in Fort Wayne at the Indiana Institute of Technology. 1000 male students – all wannabe engineers and 0 female students. Even Sheldon and Lenard have Amy and Penny (Big Bang Theory). You seek comfort and support with your kind – EE students. And the journey begins.

Text Messaging

Your dorm room is 8ft x 16ft. 2 beds, 2 desks, 2 closets and 2 students. No cell phones, no land line phone, no intercom. Only one pay phone at the end of the hall. How do you know when to meet for dinner, how do you get help studying, how do you know where the action is on campus? This is an engineering school – no action!

Your new friends Mike and Jim decide that the 3 of you should acquire 3 teletype machines and run a wire between the dorm rooms. Jim lives in the south end of the Quad, you live in the north end of the Quad and Mike lives in Sihler Hall. The dean gives you permission to go on the roof of the dorms and run wires between the rooms. Mike designs an autostart circuit to wake up all 3 machines when any 1 is turned on. (Remember – no digital ICs. Only vacuum tubes and thermal time delay relays.) Text messaging is born. Instead of a ring tone or jingle when a message comes in, you hear the chug, chug, chug of the motor and the slap, slap, slap of the keys hitting the paper. Your room mate makes you promise not to text message after 11PM!



Morse Code

The group of EE students that has befriended you are almost all HAMS. Did you know, at one time morse code was a requirement for an EE degree? Well peer pressure is on – you must become an Amateur Radio Operator. There are no code practice programs for your computer – no personal computers, no apps for your cell phone – no cell phones. Did W1AW offered code practice at that time? There was only the tape machine that pulled a paper tape with black marks on it between a lamp and a photo electric tube to key an oscillator for code practice. You spent hours listening to the tape and slowly cranking up the speed of the motor to increase your code speed, finally reaching a speed where the other hams thought you would pass your 5 words per minute test.

VE Testing

When the time came to take your test – you had to wait until an FCC official visited Ft Wayne. An English professor gives you permission to skip her test. Then you are off to the federal building in beautiful downtown Fort Wayne. The test requirement was 1 minute of perfect copy out of 5 minutes of 5 WPM morse code. Of course, there was also the theory portion of the test.

NERDS

What do you do as an EE student and no social life? (Remember – no girls.) You spend your time in the ham shack. The club station was W9BHR, the Kekionga Amateur Radio Club. It was located at the highest spot on campus and the highest spot in Fort Wayne. You played with radios and occasionally you studied. You explained to Professor Kitchen why your answer to the lab experiment was correct and he was wrong. You pointed out to Professor Patel that there was no correct

answer to his test problem. You, David and Tom ganged up on Professor Johnson and pointed out every error in his new text book on digital logic. Recreation was sitting at the top of the 100ft tower to get away from everyone. Threatening to sing Alice's Restaurant in the cafeteria to protest cockroaches in the potato chips. Turning your desk lamp into a black light - you didn't need the desk lamp anyway, your desk was occupied with a teletype machine and you had to show off your roommates posters.

Microwave Ovens

The cafeteria was only open for meals – no snack machines – no snack bars. You had to leave campus to find a diner if you were hungry. There may have been White Castle 2 blocks from campus. If you were planning on operating the club station late into the night you might run over to the White Castle and get a burger or 2 and keep them warm in the rack holding the kilowatt amp.

VHF / UHF / SHF / EHF

The radio club received a gift of 2 or 3 racks of microwave equipment from ITT. There were wave guides, klystrons, magnetrons, traveling wave tubes, etc. You hadn't a clue what to do with all this neat stuff, but boy was it fun to explore all the components in the rack. There was no internet to look up data sheets on all the components but that didn't stop the experimenting.

We built a 500nm transmitter (white light). We “borrowed” photo flood lamps from the photography club. Placed all the lamps in the club window, wired them in parallel, placed a straight key in the power line. Safety was our highest concern so we sent CQ DE W9BHR using our feet, with our shoes on of course!

It was very late one night. We sent CQ. The window in the club station faced downtown Fort Wayne. We had a QSO with a “room” in the bank building downtown. Someone responded by flicking the room lights on and off. A 500nm contact over a distance of about 1 mile. Of course, my memory could be exaggerating the distance.



Back To The Future

Well, I'm sure there are other great ham radio stories out there and it would be nice if you shared yours. Can you imagine RIT letting the students climb a 100ft tower – to get away from everyone or for any reason? Or running wires between dorm rooms ? What if we had to pass a CW test to get our college degree?

Silent Key

Edward F. Kohl
WA2UBD
December 16, 2014

Silent Key

George E. Evan
KE2WQ
November 8, 2014

Silent Key

Lawrence E. Brassie
WA2GHQ
January 17, 2015

Sign Up for Spring License Classes

Pam Kasperkoski, W2PHK



Have you been thinking about upgrading your license to General or Extra, but could use a little coaching? Maybe you have friends who have noticed your excitement about your hobby and are interested in finding out more for themselves. If so, you are in luck! There are highly qualified and experienced instructors waiting to help you out.

RARA will again be offering license classes beginning in March. Classes run for 10 weeks and will be held on Tuesday evenings on the RIT campus in Henrietta. Classes are FREE to RARA members and students under age 21.

Please feel free to e-mail me (pamelakasper@frontiernet.net) for further information or to sign up!

Pam Kasperkoski, W2PHK

RARA Education Coordinator

A Short Story From a Fellow Ham

David Quagliana, K2MTW

RARA HAM / CW

I just finished reading your newsletter - in my radio room in Williamsville, NY.

I have been licensed since May, 1955 as **K2MTW**. I was the last CW radio telegraph operator hired by the Buffalo, NY Police Department. There were 79 stations in 25 states coast to coast operating 24/7. BPD's call was KEB-23 and used the letters BJ as a call sign to establish contact. Detroit Michigan was called up as DM, Cleveland Ohio was CV.

An interesting CW jingle for those who can still copy uses the following words - which in Morse code - will stump the best of 'em. Try this out around 15 words per minute:

BEST BENT WIRE RESET

My relatives and uncles lived in Albion NY while my Uncle lived in Greece.... 73's DQ

Military RTTY in the Twentieth Century - Part 2

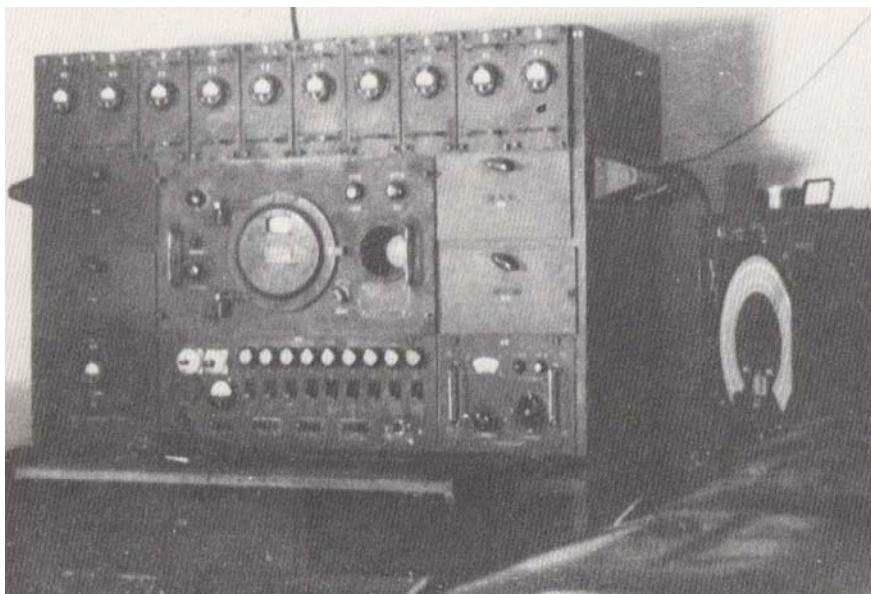
Randy Rezabek, K2REZ

By the beginning of World War II military communications services were replacing the paper key tape with a Hagelin style rotor crypto machine to produce the key sequence used in encrypted teletype messages. The German Siemens T-52 Geheimschreiber and the Lorenz SZ-40/42 devices were based upon this design. The British had developed an excellent rotor machine called the TypeX, originally developed for the RAF teletype air defense network. The US was rather late in getting into this game, not producing a similar crypto device until 1944 when it came out with the SIGTOT.

Faced with the pressures of a world war, the United States developed global communication systems based largely on RTTY. The Army Command and Administrative Network (ACAN) linked the War department in Washington with communication centers in London, Hawaii, New Delhi, Karachi, Chungking, Algiers, Cairo, Basra, Casablanca, Accra, Asmara. The Army Airways Communication Service was developed to rapidly transmit flight information across the globe. The Navy, in addition to its already established land based system, began experimenting with RTTY for shipboard use. However shipboard conditions, including humidity, rolling and shocks from gunfire created difficulties for the technology of the times, limiting its effectiveness.



TypeX - The machine developed by the RAF for online encryption of RTTY signals



Russian Fish - The German built receiver designed to capture Soviet multiplexed RTTY signals. Captures by Allied intelligence it was used against the Russians in the early stages of the Cold War.

world's first computer. This effort yielded intelligence that was critical to the allied D-Day attack and the following battles across France and Germany.

The Russians too were heavily involved in RTTY. The Soviet Union with its large landmass, and lower levels of

communications infrastructure was ideal for the technology. By the mid-thirties, the use of Baudot communications had extended across the USSR, and the Germans realized that they needed a means to intercept it.

In 1936, the *Wehrmacht* contracted with the Berlin firm of Lorenz to design and build a receiver that could convert the transmitted Baudot impulses into printed text. The Germans first intercepted Russian traffic of this nature in 1940 in Warsaw, however other priorities, including a reorganization of the intelligence effort giving the Army responsibilities for the military and diplomatic intelligence on Russia, followed by the increased workload of the invasion put a low priority on the monitoring of Soviet internal communications. German intelligence began to take more interest in 1942 and a renewed effort was made to collect these signals. Most of the signals were unencrypted and contained information of industrial and administrative matters, such as manufacturing requirements, plant completions, personnel training, and routine reports. Nevertheless, the material also included military matters such as special announcements from high military command and coded messages between the General Staff and various front staffs. Most of the Baudot circuits regularly covered included those links between Moscow and major regional centers such as Baku, Leningrad, Sverdlovsk and others; along with inter regional circuits, including coverage of shipping, airline and rail traffic.

The German unit responsible for the interception of these signals was captured in Rosenheim, Germany by a TICOM (Target Intelligence Committee) team in May 1945. Quickly dispatched to the UK for interrogations, the Allies soon learned that the Soviets transmitted two, six, and nine channel multiplexed circuits with the two channel signals encrypted for military communications. By early 1946, these signals were being intercepted and decrypted by both the British and Americans in the opening days of the Cold War.

In the post-war era RTTY continued to develop at a rapid pace, both militarily and commercially. Developments during the war had made the technology cheaper for companies, allowing individual firms to install their own machines and connect them through the public phone system. Amateurs bought up surplus TTY machines and the mode came into popular use. The first two-way amateur radio teletype QSO of record took place in May 1946 between Dave Winters, W2AUF, Brooklyn, NY and W2BFD, John Evans Williams, Woodside Long Island, NY, with the first transcontinental two-way RTTY QSO in 1949. The Navy, having solved most of their seaborne problems by the 1950s, began using RTTY as the primary means of communications to all its ships. The volume became so great that new systems of relay were developed to replace the manually 'torn tape' method of the past. By the 1980s, increase computerization allowed the AUTODIN system to receive, store, switch and forward messages automatically, the forerunner of today's e-mail server.

RTTY played a continuing role in the intelligence war between the U.S. and the Soviet Union. Among the various crimes of the traitor John Walker in the mid 80s, the most damaging was his selling of Crypto keys to the KKL-47, the KW-7 and other cipher machines that were used by the Navy to encrypt their RTTY signals to the fleet. It is believed by some historians that this was the motivation for the seizing of the USS Pueblo by the North Koreans in 1968, in a successful attempt to capture the onboard crypto machine for their Soviet sponsors.

Modern communications have rendered RTTY obsolete. Long haul communications are now conducted via satellites or fiber optics cables; the need for newer coding systems incorporating more extensive data sets and error correction (i.e. ASCII) and cheap, ubiquitous communication devices (laptops, tablets, smart phones) connected to an automatic switching global wide network (the internet) has relegated RTTY to the ranks of the quaint antique.

Sources for further information:

- Various Wikipedia articles including "Radioteletype", "Baudot Code", "Frequency-shift keying".
- Nick K4NYW Website, "US Navy Radio Communications - 1950s & 1960s", <http://www.navy-radio.com/>.
- Randy Rezabek 'The Russian Fish with Caviar', *Cryptologia*, 2014, 38:1, 61-76
- George Raynor Thompson and Dixie R. Harris. *The Signal Corps: The Outcome*. Washington, D.C.: Center for Military History, U.S. Army, 1991. 499.
- Alan G. Hobbs and Sam Hallas. "A Short History of Telegraphy, Part 2, Making a Record." <http://www.samhallas.co.uk/telhist1/telehist2.htm>.
- Bob Pollard. "Multiplexing History". <http://sites.google.com/site/mdprcp/multiplexinghistory>

Hello, Welcome to ARAST Sponsors of the Elmira Hamfest

Tom English, N2YJY

Not much happening down this way during the cold winter months. There is a hamfest coming up but it is not affiliated with our organization. The hamfest date is on the last Saturday of February (February 28, 2015) at the Big Flats American Legion off Exit 49 of Interstate 86. Tickets are \$5.00 and available at the door. 146.70(-) for talk-in (I think).

Of course our affiliated hamfest is the Elmira hamfest on the last Saturday of September. Mark your calendars and plan to spend the day with us here in Elmira.

Have you been driving through the Southern Tier and noticed that our main repeater (147.36 +) is not coming back to you? There is a good reason for that as it is currently off the air due to construction at the repeater site. The site is currently being updated from several towers at the site to one 190 foot monopole. Our antennas and hardline are all new, installed and awaiting the County's permission to put the repeaters and the cans back in. It's been tuned up and it's ready to go whenever the County releases the site so we can install the repeater. Hang on folks, it's gonna be better than ever (higher too!). Just waiting for the County to get all their stuff in so we can proceed. The repeater committee is working hard with the County to get everything back up and running as soon as possible.

So don't forget to mark your calendars for September 26, 2015 for the Elmira hamfest. More information should be available on the Website www.arast.org.

73 Everybody and stay warm!

Tom

VE Team Input

Ken Hall, W2KRH

We had 13 candidates take the license test last month. We have 6 new Technicians, 2 new Generals, one of whom passed both element 2 and 3. We also have 2 new Extras, one of whom has volunteered to become a VE.

Thank you Francis KD2GHJ.

Our next session will be on February 21st.

John Cashimere	KD2HTQ	T	Robert Hess	KD2GMX	G
Miguel Dominguez	KD2HTR	T	John Kelly	WA2CHV	E
Katherine Dominguez	KD2HTS	T	Francis Majeski	KD2GHJ	E
John Dunlap	KD2HTT	T	Rachele McCusker	KD2HNP	G
Michael Halprin	KD2HTU	T	Richard Smith	KD2HTV	T

Ham Radio Exhibit at RMSC

Peter Fournia, W2SKY



It was ham radio's 14th successful year at Rochester Museum and Science Center! The Science and Technology Days at RMSC is an annual event that occurs during the holidays between Christmas and New Years. It is popular with local families and their out of town visitors. We participated in this event for 3 days from December 27 to December 29. This year's event used the same format that has been successful in the past 6 years or so. The volunteers who staff our ham radio exhibit were from many Rochester area ham radio clubs. Leadership came from RARA which operated hands-on demonstrations and RDXA which operated a special events station. Our exhibit exposes more than 2000 people to ham radio in a positive way. It is a rewarding experience for our volunteers and it is appreciated by the RMSC.

The RARA part of the exhibit used two tables with 4 volunteers scheduled each day. Some of the exhibits were simple hands-on electro-magnetism that attracted young children. Those demonstrations consisted of the attraction/repulsion of magnetism, a "perpetual motion" magnet that displayed magnetic levitation, and a hand cranked generator (a magnet that was moved past a coil with a hand crank causing deflection in a galvanometer). There were some other simple demonstrations.

Don Kiser personally supplied several additional technology demonstrations. Most impressive was a Lenz's Law demonstration which simply dropped a very strong magnet through a 24" length of copper water pipe. The magnet "magically" took about 10-15 seconds to fall through the pipe due to interaction of the magnetic field and the induced electric field. Additionally Don supplied a laser transmitter and receiver that provided music at the other side of the room. He also demonstrated APRS on this computer.

New to the RARA exhibit this year was the building of Morse Code keys. This Morse Code key was the same project that Jon Dickason's team demonstrated at the Rochester Maker Faire on November 22, 2014. Over 30 keys were built at our exhibit and taken home by children. It was very popular. More keys would have been made if we had not run out of materials. In addition to building the keys, the children had a chance to try Morse Code before and after building the keys and took home information on the history of Morse Code.



About 15 volunteers staffed the RARA exhibit from a pool of about 18 hams who had been available. Not all available hams were scheduled because of the shorter operation hours, volunteer availability and needed skills. This year's hours of operation were from 12 noon to 4:00 PM. Previous years' operations had also included the mornings. Furthermore, supervision in building of the Morse Code keys required dynamic changes in the building process owing to different materials in the kit. Some of these volunteers had previously worked with the key project or had significant shop experience. These volunteers communicated among themselves and provided additional tools needed to deal with soft wood and hard wood for the key and to repair some solder joints.



Lenz Law Demonstration



Morse Code Demonstration

A BIG thank you goes to all of our volunteers! Helping with the code key project were: Vince Burolla W2VAB, Jon Dickason N2JAC, Bob Galory KD2GHF, Cedric Kron WA2FTV, Tim Brown WB2PAY, John Vangriethuysen N2BNE, Len Crelin KC2PCD, and Larry Hill N2AJX. Helping with the hands-on demonstrations were: Don Kiser AC2EV, Ken Hall W2KRH, Stephen Fleming K2STF, Bill Hopkins, AA2YV, Tim Barrett K9VB, Bob Karz K2OID, and Brad Allen KB2CHY.

The other half of the ham radio exhibit consisted of the special events station operated by RDXA.

RARA Calendar

Tim Barrett, K9VB

~ February 2015 ~						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 UBA SSB DX Contest	2 ARS Spartan Sprint	3 QRP Fox Hunt	4 ROC City Net 8pm 3.826 MHz	5 QRP Fox Hunt NCCC Sprint Ladder	6 RARA Club Meeting 7:00pm	7 Parties: VT,MN,BC, AWA AM, YL-ISSB. NA CW Sprint 10-10 Int. SSB Black Sea Cup Int.
8 Parties: VT, BC, AWA AM, YL-ISSB 10-10 Int. SSB Black Sea Cup Int.	9 ARRL School Club Roundup	10 QRP Fox Hunt ARRL School Club Roundup NAQCC CW Sprint	11 ARRL School Club Roundup SIARC 7:30pm ROC City Net 8pm 3.826 MHz	12 RARA Board of Directors Meeting 5:30pm QRP Fox Hunt ARRL School Club Roundup NCCC Sprint Ladder XARC 6:00pm	13 ARRL School Club Roundup RVHFG 7:30pm	14 FISTS Sprint NH QSO Party CQ WW RTTY WPX SARL Field Day Contest (South Africa) Asia Pac CW Sprint Dutch PACC Contest
15 NH QSO Party CQ WW RTTY WPX SARL Field Day Contest (South Africa) Dutch PACC Contest Run for the Bacon QRP	16	17 QRP Fox Hunt RDXA 7:30pm	18 ROC City Net 8pm 3.826 MHz DARC 7:30pm	19 QRP Fox Hunt NCCC Sprint Ladder	20 RRRA 7:30pm	21 RARA Winter Cabin Party - Stewart Lodge, Mendon Ponds Park VE Testing 10:00am ARRL DX CW Contest REF SSB Contest
22 ARRL DX CW Contest REF SSB Contest Hi Speed CW Contest	23	24 QRP Fox Hunt	25 ROC City Net 8pm 3.826 MHz	26 QRP Fox Hunt ARES/RACES 7:00pm	27 CQ 160M SSB Contest	28 CQ 160M SSB Contest UBA DX CW Contest NA RTTY QSO Party KA2LIM Hamfest

Print this calendar and leave it by your radio.

NEWS FROM AREA CLUBS

MONROE COUNTY ARES / RACES NEWS

The Monroe County Amateur Radio Emergency Service, Inc. holds its meetings on the fourth Thursday of each month. Anyone interested, members and non-members, are welcome to attend. The next ARES Meeting will be held on: **Thursday, February 26, 2015, at 7:00pm.**

Meetings are held at the **Greater Rochester Chapter of the American Red Cross HQ, 50 Prince Street, Rochester, NY 14607.** (Located behind the Rochester Auditorium Theatre, 885 Main St. E.)

ARES NET: Monroe County ARES/RACES meets on the air every Thursday of the month at 8:00 pm, on the 146.61 MHz (-) 110.9 Hz PL repeater. The only exception to that are nights when we hold our regular meeting, generally on the 4th Thursday of the month.

WEB: www.monroecountyemcomm.org



NBEMS: Want to learn about Narrow Band Emergency Messaging System (NBEMS)? It's the latest and easiest way to "Go Digital!" Bring your laptop computer and 2-M handheld transceiver. We will conduct an NBEMS clinic after every meeting through June 2015.

ROCHESTER RADIO REPEATER ASSOCIATION, RRRRA

The Rochester Radio Repeater Association, RRRRA, invites you to attend its February 20th meeting. Meetings are held on the 3rd Friday of the Month. Meetings are held in the Pittsford Town Hall Basement starting at 7:30 pm.

We would like to thank the AWA for hosting a private tour of their museum for our December meeting. We hope those that attended enjoyed the tour.

SQUAW ISLAND AMATEUR RADIO CLUB, SIARC

The Squaw Island Amateur Radio Club (SIARC) meets every second Wednesday of the month at 7:00pm at the Ontario County Safety Training Facility, 2914 County Road 48, Town of Hopewell. We have License Exam Testing every other month which begins at 6:30pm. There will be testing at the February Meeting beginning at 6:30pm. The regular meeting will begin at 7:30pm.

DRUMLINS AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

Our meetings are held the third Wednesday of each month. Doors open at 7:00pm, meeting starts at 7:30pm at the Wayne County EOC, 7376 Route 31, Lyons. VE sessions held before the meeting on even months. Talk-in before meeting on 146.685-.

ROCHESTER VHF GROUP

The Rochester VHF Group holds monthly meetings on the second Friday of the month between September and June. Meetings begin at 7:30 PM and are held at the Spencerport Wesleyan Church, 2653 Nichols St. (NY Route 31) in Spencerport. Visit our website www.rvhfg.org for details.

The Rochester VHF Group sponsors an informal On-Air Net every Monday at 2100 local time on 144.260 MHz USB and a 6 Meter Net every Thursday at 2100 local on 50.200 MHz USB.

More club information can be found by visiting www.rvhfg.org or just calling in any Monday or Thursday night. All are welcome to check in to these nets.

ROCHESTER DX ASSOCIATION, RDXA

February Meeting: Tuesday, February 17, 2015
Time: 7:30pm
Location: Monroe County EOC Building, upstairs
1190 Scottsville Road, Rochester, NY 14624



XRX AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

The XARC 2 Meter repeater, 145.29, has been moved from the Xerox Tower to a new location south of Rochester. The antenna is not yet at its final location, but it appears to have good coverage in much of the Rochester area. We are dealing with a few intermittent radio issues, so the repeater may be off the air from time-to-time. We have a Yaesu System Fusion repeater ordered and hope to have it installed before spring.

Our next meeting is February 12, 6PM, at the Webster Recreation Center. All are welcome. Our next Fox Hunt is scheduled for May 9. More info on our website

Is There A Hamfest In Your Future?

Check out the Lockport Amateur Radio Association's 54th Annual Winter Hamfest on January 31st.

<http://www.lockportara.us/2015-upcoming-events/lara-hamfest-2015>

KA2LIM Winter Hamfest, February 28th at the Big Flats American Legion

<http://www.ka2lim.com/index.html>

Drumlins Hamfest, April 18th, Palmyra VFW

Dayton Hamvention, May 15 - 17, Hara Arena

<http://hamvention.org/>

Rochester Hamfest, June 6, Barnard Fireman's Carnival Grounds

Elmira Hamfest, September 26th

HAM AD

Stephen Rice, KA2ABA

I need some help identifying folks looking to buy US Tower crank up tx455. I am purchasing one scheduled for late April delivery. I am planning on driving to Kansas to pick it up and would be interested in sharing the ride. USTower is quoting 1550 to ship. I can do it for half so if I can find somebody interested We can cut it even farther. It will be a 5 day turn around starting on a Wednesday I can haul 3 of these easily and 6 with a little effort but nothing longer than the 455. If anybody is interested please call me on my cell at 607 368 0193 and I will give you details.

Antenna Vocabulary?

R A D I A L L N O M C A Z I M U T H Y L
 V Y B P E Z R N U L A B W J M R J G G T
 B C A N T N P H K K A B Q H O X R T E R
 E R R R J K O B O V L H M S N V J L J M
 V X L R R M H C E M Z T L I O T B K F T
 E M T W H A J R S H B C W D P U Z W V J
 R R L Z T O T K N I W I T N O Z X T W H
 A Q A R J I R Z M I D N C D L B K P W P
 G C V D C T A I N P W B R H E X L M R O
 E I H A I M P D Z I S O T R O P I C R L
 P D L E E A O Q P O X R P O O L D Q H A
 N O K B L M T V Q C N G Q W L R L N R R
 H I T R O E D O I X A T I R O N R Z E I
 V R K T P T V L R M Q N A D N M W N Z Z
 K E P J I P O A M Q D D N L G Z U K L A
 W P G F D B H A T L F A X C W T T M R T
 M G P K A P D V O I M U H M I Y Y A G I
 L O W R P M G A N N O Q P Y R H C M N O
 M L A E K Y D J Y R C N M J E N T V M N
 P P Z B M C L B X Q R E P O L S M R K F

ARRAY	ELEVATION	MONOPOLE	TRAP
AZIMUTH	GAMMA	PARABOLIC	TUNER
BALUN	HALO	POLARIZATION	VERTICAL
BEVERAGE	HORIZONTAL	QUAD	WINDLOAD
DIPOLE	ISOTROPIC	RADIAL	WINDOM
DISCONE	LOGPERIODIC	RADIATOR	YAGI
DISH	LONGWIRE	RHOMBIC	ZEPP
DOUBLET	LOOP	SLOPER	

THE AMATEUR'S CODE

Originally written by Paul M. Segal, W9EEA (1928)

THE RADIO AMATEUR IS:

CONSIDERATE	Never knowingly operating in such a way as to lessen the pleasure of others.
LOYAL	Offering loyalty, encouragement and support to other amateurs, local club, and the American Radio Relay League, through which Amateur Radio in the United States is represented nationally and internationally.
PROGRESSIVE	With knowledge abreast of science, a well built and efficient station and operation beyond reproach.
FRIENDLY	With slow and patient operation when requested, friendly advice and counsel to the beginner, kindly assistance, co-operation and consideration for the interests of others. These are the hallmarks of the amateur spirit.
BALANCED	Radio is an avocation, never interfering with duties owed to family, job, school or community.
PATRIOTIC	With station and skill always ready for service to country and community.

VISIT THE RARA WEBSITE!

Did you know that your club's website (www.rochesterham.org) offers these features and more?

- Photos of meetings & events (you might be in there!)
- Info on upcoming meetings/programs
- Rochester Hamfest information!
- Online membership & renewal
- Track and redeem your Reward Points
- Public service info & sign-up
- VE testing info
- Back issues of the *Rag* in PDF
- Officer contact
- List of past presidents
- Online membership directory
- Order RARA logo products
- Useful Internet links
- Ham Radio 101 – tons of tutorial info, plus net & repeater listings



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MARCH RAG DEADLINE

FEBRUARY 15, 2015



**RARA meets at 7PM on the
first Friday of each month;
come join us at:**

Henrietta Fire Co. #1
3129 East Henrietta Road
Henrietta, NY 14467

[Get Directions](#)

[Rochester Area Repeater Listing](#)

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THE RARA RAG

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